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Harwich
Port Health Authority

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1954

Harwich Port Health Authority

MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE AUTHORITY AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Alderman E. GANT (Chairman)	}	<i>Borough of Harwich</i>
Alderman J. E. CANN		
Councillor J. P. BENSTEAD		
Councillor O. D. ROLLAND		
Councillor Mrs. E. M. SMITH		
Councillor C. C. THURLOW		

Councillor D. DOYLE JONES, J.P.	}	<i>Samford R.D.C.</i>
Col. B. H. HUGHES-RECKITT, T.D.		
Lt.-Col. E. H. RODWELL, M.C., T.D.		

Councillor F. W. AYLMORE	}	<i>Tendring R.D.C.</i>
Councillor F. S. COBB		
Councillor E. LOWE		

Councillor W. Y. WARD	}	<i>Felixstowe U.D.C.</i>
Councillor W. E. HASTE		

Councillor R. H. MATHESON	<i>Deben R.D.C.</i>
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Clerk and Solicitor: H. H. V. CARTER, B.A.

Office: 42 Church Street, Harwich (*Telephone* Harwich 666/7)

Office of the Port Medical Officer: Health Department, 259 Main Road, Dovercourt. *Telephone* Harwich 506

Office of the Port Health Inspector: Parkeston Quay. *Telephone* Harwich 656

Harwich, February, 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

We have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1954. This is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 22/54 dated 18th October, 1954. This requests that only changes in the conditions appertaining during 1954 should be recorded. A more comprehensive survey report will be presented for the year 1955.

The two vessels which suffered damage during 1953 were returned to service after extensive repairs—the *Kronsprins Frederik* on the 5th May, 1954, and the s.s. *Duke of York* on the 17th January, 1954. The year under review was fortunately free from serious incident.

The medical inspection and examination of aliens continued as in previous years. The present extent of this section of the Port activity is reflected by the following statistics:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Aliens Landed</i>	<i>Aliens Examined</i>	
1950	98,518	9,244	9.4%
1951	97,391	8,121	8.3%
1952	99,487	6,780	6.8%
1953	103,689	5,931	5.7%
1954	110,647	6,747	6.1%

The cordial relations between the Customs Department, the Immigration Department, the British Railways, the United Shipping Company, and the Zeeland Shipping Company have been maintained. A satisfactory liaison has also been established with the Ministry of War Transport Officials controlling the B.A.O.R. Troopship Service. Without such relationship it would be impossible for the work of the Port to be carried out in an efficient manner.

Once again it affords much pleasure to express appreciation of the work carried out by the various members of the Staff.

We have the honour to be, your obedient servants,

J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON,

Port Medical Officer,

Medical Inspector of Aliens

E. K. LOMAS,

Chief Port Health and Food Inspector

SECTION I. STAFF

TABLE A

No Change.

SECTION II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	2,020	3,535,163	65	298	4
Coastwise ...	449	67,360	—	173	—
TOTAL ...	2,469	3,602,523	65	471	4

SECTION III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Number of Passengers:

INWARDS	...	...	...	British	...	...	171,044
				Aliens	...	...	110,647
							281,691
OUTWARDS	...	...	...	British	...	...	157,339
				Aliens	...	...	116,414
							273,753

CARGO TRAFFIC. Principal IMPORTS—Add fresh meat and offals.

(a) Foreign.

1,753 tons of grain and 2,285 tons of timber from foreign ports were landed at Mistley Quay during the year.

(b) Coastwise.

The Coastwise Traffic consisted mainly of small coasters, motor and sprit sail barges carrying grain, vegetable oils, copra, groundnuts and seed potatoes to Felixstowe Dock and Mistley Quay. 30,903 tons of these cargoes were landed at Felixstowe Dock during the year.

Principal EXPORTS—Add grain, vegetable oils.

SECTION IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Not applicable.

SECTION V. WATER SUPPLY

(1) **Source of Supply**

No change.

(2) **Reports on Tests for Contamination**

Two samples of water were taken from vessels during the year and forwarded for bacteriological examination. Both these samples were reported as satisfactory.

Three samples were taken from quay hydrants supplying shipping and forwarded for bacteriological examination. These were all reported as satisfactory.

One sample was taken from quay hydrant and forwarded for chemical examination. This was reported as hard in character but of organic quality of a high standard.

The Shipping Companies at the Port are carrying out the recommendations of Ministry of Transport Notice M.358 regarding cleansing of fresh water tanks on British-owned vessels. Records are kept, and the work supervised by the Port Health Inspector before the tanks are resealed.

(3) **Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes**

No change.

(4) **Water Boats**

No change.

SECTION VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1952

(1) **List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)**

No change.

(2) **Radio Messages**

No change.

(3) **Notification, otherwise than by Radio**

No change.

(4) **Mooring Stations**

No change.

SECTION VII. SMALLPOX

No change.

SECTION VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

The facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease in the area are the same as for previous years and appear to function satisfactorily.

SECTION IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Measles	1	—	1
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1	3
	Influenza	—	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ships	—	—	—	—

SECTION X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURENCE OF MALARIA ON SHIPS

None.

SECTION XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No change.

SECTION XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) Procedure for Inspection of Ships for Rats

The majority of ships arriving from foreign ports were the regular vessels on the Continental and Danish services. These vessels are regularly inspected. The class of cargoes carried and the short voyages do not encourage rodent infestation. The holds are cleaned out after each voyage, and constant watch is kept on holds, cargoes, foodstores, galleys, etc., for any evidence of infestation. Members of crews and the men working in the holds are instructed that any signs of rats must be reported to this Authority.

Regular visits are made to Felixstowe Dock and Mistley Quay for the inspection of vessels.

No rats were found on any vessels during the year.

(2) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year

Arrangements have been made by this Authority with the Public Health Laboratory Service at Ipswich for examinations of rodents for rodent plague.

Two brown rats caught on the Quay were sent to this laboratory during the year for examination, and reported as Negative.

(3) Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor

All the vessels which applied to this Authority for Deratting Certificates during the year were found to be free from rat infestation, and were granted Exemption Certificates. One small cargo vessel was found to be slightly infested with mice. This vessel was treated with Sorex for several days by the British Transport Commission rodent operators, which proved effective.

Small infestations can be treated by this Authority by trapping or fumigation with sulphur dioxide.

Small infestations on railway-owned vessels can be treated by their own rodent operators under the supervision of this Authority.

In the case of large infestations, arrangements have been made with the Shipping Companies to call in a commercial contractor, The Associated Fumigators Ltd., Victoria Dock Road, London, E.16, to carry out the treatment decided by this Authority—either fumigation with hydrogen cyanide or poisoning with sodium fluoroacetate (1080).

The Railway Rodent Operators make regular visits to the Port to carry out treatments against rodent infestation on quays, warehouses, etc., under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

(4) Progress in Rat-proofing of ships

The majority of the vessels using the Port are of fairly recent construction and the measures taken on these vessels regarding rat-proofing are generally satisfactory.

Applications were received from 10 coastal vessels for inspection for Rodent Control Certificates under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951. These vessels were found to be free from rats and mice, and Certificates were issued in all cases.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category						Number
Black rats	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Brown rats	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued 6	Total Certificates issued 7
After fumigation with		After trapping 3	After Poisoning* 4	Total 5		
H.C.N. 1	Other Fumigant (state method) 2					
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	21	21

* State poisons used and number of Certificates issued after each poison

SECTION XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

The ships arriving at this Port from foreign ports consisted mainly of regular vessels on the Continental and Danish Packet services.

These are mostly of modern construction with very good accommodation and amenities for crews. It was generally found that crews appreciated these conditions and kept their quarters clean and in good condition.

Arrangements have been made for all the railway-owned vessels at the Port to have regular preventative treatment against vermin infestation by the Railway Infestation Dept.

During the year, arrangements were made with the Ministry of Transport for one of the troop ships, which had shown evidence of repeated cockroach infestation, to be treated with a special insecticidal lacquer. This lacquer, which incorporates an effective insecticide, was applied by spray to the likely centres of harbourage, after repainting. The lacquer has a residual effect, and has been remarkably successful. It is now nearly 12 months since the treatment was carried out, and there are no signs of any reinfestation.

The defects and nuisances found on vessels during the year were mainly of a minor character, and were generally rectified when brought to the notice of the owners.

TABLE G. Inspections and Notices

Nature and number of inspections					Notices served		Result of serving notices
					Statutory	Other Notices	
General Inspections	...	...	...	471	Nil	43	41 notices complied with
Follow-up and other Inspections	...	...	...	120			2 notices in abeyance
TOTAL	...	...	...	591	Nil	43	41 complied with

Details of Nuisances and Defects dealt with on Vessels

Defective steam pipes and radiators in quarters	...	...	3	Verminous quarters	...	...	...	2
Leak in deckhead of quarters	...	...	1	Dirty quarters	...	...	...	2
Dirty bedding	...	...	1	Oil leak into quarters	...	...	...	1
Leak in vent from hold passing through quarters	...	...	1	Verminous galleys	...	...	...	2
Defective sink in galley	...	...	1	Leaking deckhead in galley	...	...	...	2
Choked scuppers in galley	...	...	1	Excessive condensation in pantry	...	...	...	1
Dirty messrooms	...	...	2	Dirty food storage	...	...	...	4
Choked W.C.'s	...	...	7	Contamination of fresh water supply	...	...	...	2
Broken wash-basins	...	...	1	Broken W.C. pans	...	...	...	1
Defective flush to W.C.'s	...	...	2	Choked waste pipes	...	...	...	2
Dirty holds	...	...	4	Defective water supply to wash-basins	...	...	...	1

SECTION XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS 1934 AND 1948

No change.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

(1) **Medical Inspectors**

No change.

(2) **Other Staff**

No change.

(3) **Organisation of Work**

No change.

(4)

Total number of vessels arriving at the port carrying aliens was	...	1,214
Total number of aliens arriving was	... ..	110,759
Total number of aliens landed was	... ..	110,647
Number of aliens refused leave to land was	... ..	112
Number of aliens refused leave to land on medical grounds was	... ..	3
Number of aliens medically inspected was	... ..	109,311
Number of aliens medically examined was	... ..	6,747
Number of Certificates issued was...	... ..	6

Analysis of Aliens referred

	<i>Number examined</i>	<i>Certificates issued</i>
Ministry of Labour permits (M.L.)	5,911	1
Immigrants without M.L. permits	320	—
Others remaining more than three months and intending to take up employment	296	—
Students	80	—
Visiting for health reasons	6	
Appearing to the Immigration Officer to be:—		
(a) not in robust health	36	2
(b) mentally or physically abnormal or subnormal	2	2
(c) bodily dirty	—	—
(d) in need of medical examination for other special reasons	92	1
Seamen travelling as passengers	4	—
	6,747	6

Nationalities

Passengers who were examined were nationals of the following countries:

Argentina	...	1	Greece	...	11	Persia	...	3
Austria	...	562	Honduras	...	1	Poland	...	5
Belgium	...	8	Hungary	...	1	Saar	...	1
Brazil	...	9	Indonesia	...	4	Sweden	...	59
Denmark	...	1,223	Iraq	...	1	Switzerland	...	158
Ecuador	...	1	Italy	...	15	Syria	...	1
Egypt	...	1	Israel	...	2	Turkey	...	2
Faroe	...	1	Liberia	...	2	U.S.A.	...	11
Finland	...	58	Liechtenstein	...	2	U.S.S.R.	...	1
France	...	4	Netherlands	...	1,604	Yugoslavia	...	3
Germany	...	2,960	Norway	...	15	Undetermined	...	17

SECTION XVI. Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease

No change.

SECTION XVII. FOOD INSPECTION

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1945

All foodstuffs landed at the Port was subject to routine inspection. Quantities and descriptions of foodstuffs imported are shown in Appendix I. Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in Appendix II.

In July, the embargo which had been in operation since 1926 on the importation of fresh meat from Continental countries, was lifted, and quantities of fresh meat are now regularly imported through the Port. This consists mainly of fat calves, prime cuts of sirloins of beef and tenderloins and offals—sheeps and calves plucks, hearts, livers, kidneys, etc. This meat is mostly from Holland, and has been of very good quality and condition. Insulated containers packed with dry ice are mainly used for this traffic.

The year also saw the resumption of the Danish bacon traffic through the Port, an extra weekly cargo boat being put on service for this traffic.

Two instances occurred during the year of imported meat products arriving without approved Official Certificates. These comprised 5 cases of tinned hams from Yugoslavia and 1 case ox cheeks from Germany. The hams were re-exported to the country of origin, and the ox cheeks were eventually destroyed on the written instructions of the importer.

Considerable quantities of shellfish—mussels and oysters—were again imported during the year, and these have been regularly sampled to ensure that they are up to the bacteriological standard for this type of shellfish, which is recognised by the Fishmongers Company, i.e., 80 per cent to 100 per cent clean and not more than 5 colonies *B.coli* (faecal type I) per ml. of flesh. Of 15 samples of Danish live mussels submitted, 12 were reported as satisfactory, 2 suspicious, and 1 unsatisfactory. Follow-up samples were taken from the sources reported as suspicious, and these proved to be satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was from a trial consignment from an area in Denmark that the Danish authorities were anxious to have opened up as a source of supply to this country, but in view of this unsatisfactory report they agreed that live mussels should not be exported from this area.

Trial consignments of cooked mussels in vinegar were sent over during the year. The first four samples from these were reported as unsatisfactory. As these mussels were from an area where the raw mussels had always shown satisfactory reports, it seemed evident that the contamination was occurring in the preparation or packing. This matter was taken up by the Technological Research Laboratories in Copenhagen who, after investigation, drew up strict regulations for various hygienic measures to be taken during production. Samples taken after these regulations came into operation proved to be very satisfactory, and these cooked mussels are now a regular traffic.

Three samples of tinned mussels were submitted and reported as satisfactory.

Nine samples of oysters were submitted and all reported as satisfactory.

Reports on foodstuffs submitted for bacteriological examination are shown in Appendix III.

The foodstuffs landed at the Port during the year have generally been of high quality in good conditions. Seizures during the year numbered 227, weighing 4,026 lbs.

Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations 1925-1948

Five samples were taken during the year under these Regulations and submitted for analysis. In January, the Ministry of Food drew attention to the possible use by certain orange growers of thiourea as a rot and mould suppressant. Its use is open to strong objection on grounds of toxicity. Two samples of bitter oranges from Italy were submitted for analysis for the presence of thiourea, but were reported as negative.

Samples of herrings in sauce and pickled shrimps were reported as free from preservatives. A sample of plum pulp was reported as containing 820 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide, but this is within the limits allowed by the Regulations.

Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926

Three importers are registered by the Port Health Authority under these Regulations for the importation of fresh cream.

Only six consignments of fresh cream, all from the same consignor, were imported during the year, totalling 2,853 gallons.

A sample of this cream submitted for examination satisfied the bacteriological standard fixed by the Regulations, and the methylene blue and phosphates tests.

Regular consignments of pasteurised milk are imported from Holland for consumption by U.S. Forces, 6,492 cases being imported during the year. Foodstuffs imported for U.S. Forces are not subject to the food regulations of this Country.

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED DURING THE YEARS 1954 AND 1953

	1954	1953
Bread	8,558 cases	323 cases
Butter	4,265 casks	1,561 casks
Biscuits	827,567 tins	563,670 tins
Bacon	590,290 sides	—
Beef	6 hindquarters	—
Beef	1,167 sirloins	—
Boneless beef	895 cases	—
Cream, fresh	2,853 gallons	3,566 gallons
Cheese	349,909 cases	232,936 cases
Confectionery	5,847 cases	6,816 cases
Chocolate	1,558 cases	5,195 cases
Cakes, spiced	22,318 cases	1,213 cases
Coffee	33 sacks	—
Cocoa fat	18 cases	—
Cocoa	585 bags	2 bags
Caviare	30 cases	—
Cooked pork	560 cases	93 cases
Eggs	183,040 cases	13,185 cases
Fruit, fresh	3,418,388 packages	4,021,794 packages
Fruit, dried	24,698 cases	19,600 cases
Fruit, juice	385 cases	143 cases
Fruit pulp	97 casks	2,039 casks
Fruit syrup	20 cases	230 cases
Fish, fresh	523,945 cases	614,607 cases
Fish, preserved	6,426 cases	72 cases
Fat backs	20 cases	434 cases
Flavourings	250 cases	—
Gelatine, edible	10 cases	—
Jelly powders	140 cases	—
Jams	1,355 cases	—
Lard	4,853 cases	—
Maize	258 tons	1,130 tons
Maize Meal	100 tons	—
Margarine	1,299 cases	—
Marzipan	12,420 cases	11,804 cases
Mustard	1,671 cases	428 cases
Milk powder	3,724 sacks	—
Offals, fresh	19,014 cases	—
Offals, salted	365 casks	899 casks
Pastry	480 cases	—
Pate de fois gras	156 cases	115 cases
Pollards	775 tons	2,416 tons
Poultry	1,032 cases	289 cases
Rice	38 sacks	5 sacks
Sausages	38,485 cases	21,503 cases
Sheep	484 carcasses	—
Salad cream	1,120 casks	454 casks
Soup powders	27,688 cases	6,298 cases
Tinned meats	51,559 cases	27,172 cases
Tinned fish	1,004 cases	194 cases
Tinned hams	4,451 cases	1,702 cases
Tinned ravioli	1,155 cases	—
Tinned sausages	690 cases	450 cases
Tinned vegetables	3,542 cases	1,915 cases
Tinned fruit	876 cases	2,861 cases
Tinned milk	5 cases	3,274 cases
Tinned soups	4,127 cases	856 cases
Tinned poultry	10 cases	27 cases
Vegetables, fresh	2,626,333 packages	1,615,474 packages
Vegetables, frozen	150 cases	—
Veal	3,833 carcasses	—
Veal	274 hindquarters	—
Vinegar	99 cases	—

Yeast	1954	1953
Wheat	37,733 cartons	500 cartons
	620 tons	—
	1954	1953
Barley	—	306 tons
Condiments	—	192 cases
Dried mushrooms	—	270 cases
Fondant	—	46 cases ...
Horse meat	—	254 packages
Pudding powders	—	1,415 cases
Tinned snails	—	30 cases
Venison	—	20 packages

FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED DURING THE YEAR FOR U.S. FORCES

Pasteurised milk	6,492 cartons
Fresh cream	439 cartons
Cheese	784 cases
Bacon	44 cases
Eggs	389 cases
Chocolate	357 cases

APPENDIX II

SEIZURES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937

(Including Prohibited Meat and Uncertified Meat or Meat Products re-exported under Article 12 of the Regulations)

					<i>Cwts</i>	<i>Qtrs</i>	<i>Lbs</i>
Vegetables:							
Carrots	2 baskets	}	12	0	7		
Lettuces	27 crates						
Tomatoes	89 trays						
Onions	part sack						
Chicory	1 carton						
Fruit:							
Apples	16 cases	}	4	3	20		
Melons	13 melons						
Grapes	10 trays						
Plums	1 chip						
Fish:							
Cooked mussels	28 casks	}	14	1	19		
Plaice	2 cases						
Carp	1 case						
Cheese	6 cheeses	}	2	1	26		
Eggs	2,041 eggs						
Marzipan	22 cartons						
Tinned hams	5 cases						
Ox cheeks	1 case	}	1	1	24		4
Luncheon meat	1 tin						

SHIPS STORES CERTIFIED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

	<i>Lbs</i>
Apples	12
Oranges	10
Brawn, 1 tin	2

APPENDIX III

REPORTS ON FOODSTUFFS FORWARDED FOR:

(A) CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

Nature	Country of Origin	Purposes of Examsnation	Results	Remarks
Bitter Oranges ...	Italy	Presence of Thiourea	No evidence of Thiourea	ref Circular MF2/54
Bitter Oranges ...	Italy	Presence of Thiourea	No evidence of Thiourea	ref Circular MF2/54
Fried Herrings in Sauce ...	Holland	Preservatives	Nil Preservatives	Within the limit allowed by the Regulations
Pickled Shrimps ...	Holland	Preservatives	Nil Preservatives	
Plum Pulp ...	Holland	Preservatives	SO2.—820 p.p.m.	

(B) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Nature	Number of Samples Submitted	Results	Remarks
Danish Live Mussels ...	12	80 per cent—100 per cent Clean. Nil Salmonella	Satisfactory
Danish Live Mussels ...	2	70 per cent Clean. Nil Salmonella	Suspicious. Subsequent samples reported as Satisfactory
Danish Live Mussels ...	1	100 per cent Unclean	Unsatisfactory. Importation of live mussels from this Area stopped
Danish Cooked Mussels in Vinegar ...	4	100 per cent Unclean. Roll Tube Technique showed from 360 to 840 faecal coli per 1 ml. of flesh	Unsatisfactory. Importation of Cooked Mussels in Vinegar stopped until improvements in methods of preparing and packing had been carried out
Danish Cooked Mussels in Vinegar ...	1	90 per cent Unclean. Roll Tube Technique—faecal coli—600 per 1 ml. of flesh	
Danish Cooked Mussels in Vinegar ...	5	100 per cent Clean by Fishmongers Test and Roll Tube Technique	Satisfactory. Samples taken after improvements in methods of preparing and packing
Danish Tinned Mussels ...	3	No bacterial growth obtained in any of the culture media inoculated. Nil Salmonella	Satisfactory
Danish Smoked Mussels in Olive Oil ...	1	Roll Tube Technique—faecal coli—0 per 1 ml. of flesh. Nil Salmonella	Satisfactory
Danish Oysters ...	7	80 per cent—100 per cent Clean. Nil Salmonella	Satisfactory
Dutch Oysters ...	2	80 per cent—100 per cent Clean. Nil Salmonella	Satisfactory
Danish Jellied Eels ...	1	Routine cultures and colony count no growth	Satisfactory

